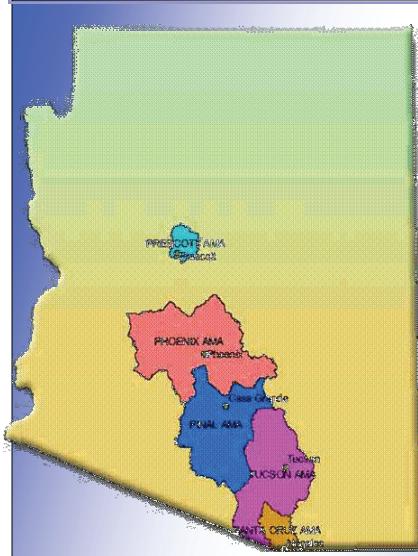




Water Management

Arizona's Active Management Areas



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ATTAIN SAFE-YIELD ENSURE A SUSTAINABLE WATER SUPPLY

The 1980 Arizona Groundwater Code recognized the need to aggressively manage the state's finite groundwater resources to support the growing economy. Areas with heavy reliance on mined groundwater were identified and designated as Active Management Areas (AMAs). Each AMA, with the exception of the Pinal AMA, has a **safe-yield** goal and the expectation that comprehensive and aggressive groundwater management will reverse the trend of heavy groundwater reliance by 2025 or earlier. **Safe-yield is the long-term balancing of groundwater withdrawals in an AMA with the amount of water naturally and artificially recharged to AMA aquifers.**

AMA	Goals
Phoenix, Tucson, Prescott	Attain safe-yield by the year 2025
Pinal	Preserve existing agricultural economies for as long as feasible, while preserving future water supplies for non-irrigation uses
Santa Cruz	Maintain a safe-yield condition and prevent long-term local water table declines

Purpose of AMAs

Arizona's AMAs were established to provide long-term management and conservation of their limited groundwater supplies. The AMAs administer state laws, develop and implement groundwater management plans, explore ways of augmenting water supplies to meet future needs, administer grants programs, and work to develop public policy in order to promote efficient use and an equitable allocation of available water supplies.

Groundwater Management Plans

To assist in achieving the AMA management goals, a series of five management plans would be prepared between 1980 and 2025. These plans contain progressively more rigorous management requirements for agricultural, municipal and industrial water users. The five management plans cover the following years:

- First Management Plan 1980 to 1990
- Second Management Plan 1990 to 2000
- Third Management Plan 2000 to 2010
- Fourth Management Plan 2010 to 2020
- Fifth Management Plan 2020 to 2025



Existing Management Tools Include:

- Restrictions on new agricultural land; no new agricultural areas may be irrigated with groundwater.
- Restrictions on new private lakes beginning in 1987.
- Conservation requirements for cities, towns, private water companies, agricultural water users, and industrial users.
- Conservation and augmentation assistance (financial and technical) to water users.
- Authorities/permits for all groundwater withdrawals.
- Assured Water Supply Program: all new subdivisions must demonstrate 100 years of sustainable water supplies.
- Well measurement requirements and groundwater withdrawal fees.
- Annual water use reporting for all large groundwater users (cities, towns, private water companies, large farms and industries).
- Authority to purchase and retire grandfathered rights.

Conservation Requirements: Municipal, Industrial, and Agricultural



One of ADWR's more successful management tools has been the development and implementation of mandatory conservation requirements for all users of groundwater within an AMA. Municipal water providers, industrial users and agricultural water users have all been subject to these requirements since the First Management Plan became effective in 1987. The three primary sector-related conservation requirements are summarized below.

Municipal Conservation Requirements

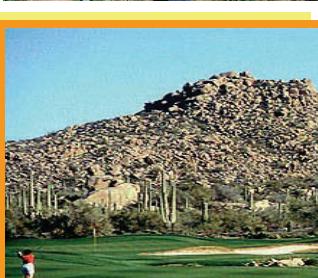
- Each large municipal water provider is assigned an annual total Gallons Per Capita Per Day (GPCD) requirement .
- Certain large municipal providers that are not regulated by the total GPCD Program have enrolled in alternative programs.
- Large municipal provider distribution system losses are not to exceed 10% annually.

Agricultural Conservation Requirements

- No new agricultural acreage in production.
- Each farm (Irrigation Grandfathered Right) is assigned a maximum annual groundwater allotment, based on assumed irrigation efficiencies of 65 to 80%.
- Certain farms have enrolled in an optional best management practices program.
- Irrigation district distribution system losses are not to exceed 10%.

Industrial Conservation Requirements

- Allotment-based requirements for large turf facilities such as golf courses and parks.
- Allotment-based requirements for dairies and feedlots.
- Best management practices or design limitations are required of mines, cooling towers, sand and gravel operations, large scale power plants and new large landscape users.



Groundwater Users Advisory Councils

The Groundwater Code established a five-member, Governor-appointed Groundwater Users Advisory Council for each AMA. Members are appointed to six year terms to represent groundwater users in their respective AMA. Each Council provides advice and recommendations to the AMA Director on the groundwater management programs and policies within the AMA.

Emerging AMA Issues

- **Safe-yield attainment:** Given current and projected water demand, available renewable supplies, and current management authorities and strategies, the ADWR will need to reevaluate it's ability to achieve the AMA management goals.
- **Local area management:** Even if safe-yield is attained on an AMA-wide basis, local areas within the boundaries of the AMAs could experience significant water management issues, such as groundwater depletions, water logging conditions, and riparian area destruction.
- **Drought impacts:** The probability of longer term drought and the emerging information on global climate change calls for additional perspectives as we develop future water supply and demand scenarios.